ing the prescribed environmental standards;

(b) if so, the number of units which have been so aided; and

(c) the total amount sanctioned upto the 31st December, 1994 since inception of the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) No such scheme has been approved to give grants or loans to the industrial units closed down for not meeting the prescribed environmental standard.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Sapru House Library

5451. SHRI RAJ NATH SINGH: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Sapru House Library is functioning under private party or is under some Government organisation;

(b) whether Government have any proposal to take over the said library in view of the staff working in this library and getting low salary i.e. Rupees 1500/- to Rupees 2000/- per month; and

(c) if so, the reasons therefor and by when a decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The Sapru House Library is functioning under Indian Council of World Affairs (ICWA), which is an autonomous body registered under the Registration of Societies Act.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) As a policy, Government is not in favour of taking over of autonomous bodies. However, the Government have decided to constitute a high-powered committee to oversee the functioning of Indian Council of World Affairs. As the Council is an autonomous body, the Government can constitute such a committee only with its consent. Presently, the governing body of the ICWA is being persuaded to pass a resolution requesting the Government to constitute this high-powered committee.

UNHRES pressure on India to Improve Human Rights Record

5452. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the United Nations Human Rights Commission is putting pressure on India to improve its human rights record, especially in Jammu & Kashmir; and

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) and (b) There is no pressure on India. The UN Commission on Human Rights has rejected all past attempts to adopt resolution against India. The UN Human Rights Commission deliberates on the human rights situation in various countries under specific agenda items during its sessions and its thematic and countries specific mechanisms further discuss different aspects of the human rights situation in all countries India responds to all UN mechanisms wherever required.

Prime Minister's visit to foreign countries

5453. SHRI RAMDAS AGARWAL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) how many countries abroad, the Prime Minister of India visited since January, 1995, till date and the details of agreements signed with them;

(b) how many foreign high dignitaries visited India during the same period, in-

dicating the type of technical assistance India offered to sought from them;

(c) how many joint ventures as a result of the visits, are likely to be set up in India during 1995-96, indicating the fields thereof, State-wise; and

(d) the budgetary provisions made during 1995-96 for this purpose?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA): (a) The Prime Minister visited the following countries since January 1995:

(i) **Denmark**—from March 8-11, 1995 to attend the World Summit for Social Development. The Prime Minister Chaired the Education For All Summit on March 10, 1995 and addressed the World Summit for Social Developmennt on March 11, 1995. The World Summit for Social Development adopted the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action.

(ii) **Maldives**— from April 15-16, 1995. No agreement was signed with the Government of Maldives during the visit.

(b) The information is as per annexed Stament. (*See* below).

(c) and (d) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table bf the House.

Statement

President Nelson Mandela of South Africa visited India from January 24-27, 1995 as Chief Guest at Republic Day celebrations. During the visit, India offered cooperation to South Africa in the field of low cost housing, small scale industries, public health, and primary and seconday education and training slots under the Indian Technical and Economic Cooperation (ITEC) in various fields to South African candidates. India also sugegsted cooperation in sectors like mining, defence production and other areas of campatibility.

Economic cooperation between India and South Africa is an ongoing process and the recent visit of President Mandela would help in expanding and diversifying bilateral relations including in the economic field.

His Excellency Mr. Suleyman Demirel, President of Turkey, visited India from January 30 to February 2, 1995. Strengthenning of economic cooperation in general and of setting up of joint ventures using government credits was discussed during the meetings with the President of Turkey.

His Excellenncy Mr. B. O. Shikhmuradov, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Turkmenistan visited India from April 18—21, 1995. India has been providing training facilities for natiionals of Turkmenistan and this offer was reiterated during the visit keeping in view Indias friendly relations with that country. Strengthening of economic cooperation in general and of setting up of joint ventures using government credits was discussed during the meetings with the visiting dignatary.

His Excellenncy Mr. Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, President of Italy paid a State visit to India from February 9-12, 1995. The President was accompanied by Foreign Minister Susanna Agnelli and Minister bf State for Foreign Trade Mario d'Urso. The visit coincided with Italy's participation as "Partner Country" in the India Engineering Trade Fair, 1995, which was jointly inaugurated by the Presidents of India and Italy. A Communique providing for regular Foreign office consultations to review all aspects of bilateral relations and undertake exchanges of views on international issues, interaction in the international orena and on issues of mutual intnerest, was signed between the Italian. Foreign Minister and the Minister of State for External Affairs.

His Excellency Ing. Ernesto Leal Sanchez, Foreign Minister of Nicaraguo paid an official visit to India from April 18—22, 1995. During the visit, Nicaragua was offered a "technical assistance/ training of experts" under the ITEC Programme and a pilot project under the ITEC terms.

His Excellency Dr. Rodrigo Pardo Garcia-Pena visited India from April 20—23, 1995. Columbia was offered "technical assistance/training of experts" under the ITEC Programme.

Agriculture Minister of Jordan paid a visit to India from March 7—16, 1995. The Minister showed interest in the exchange of informtaion regarding seeds development and Indian agricultural equipments. No agreement on joint venture was signed during the visit.

His Excellency Dr. Ali Akbar Vilayati, Foreign Minister of Iran visited India from January 2—4, 1995 for the 8th Sesion of the India-Iran Joint Commission. Among the other issues of bilateral interest, the meeting also discussed identifying technical cooperation programmes between the two countries in different fields.

His Excellency Mr. Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani, President of Iran visited India from April 17—19, 1995. During the visit, Memorandum of Understandings were signed on the following:

(i) Cooperation on Tourism

(ii) Cooperation in the Telecommunications and postal services.

(iii) Cooperation on Environment.

(iv) Cooperation on prevention of drug trafficking.

Mr. Federico E. Mayor, Director General of UNESCO visited India from April 30 to May 3, 1995 in connection with the Regioal Meeting on Tolerance for Asia and pacific organised by Government of India.

Mr. Ayala Lasso, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights visited India from April 30 to May 6, 1995 at the invitation of Government of India.

Us Defence Secretary, Commerce Secretary and Treasury Secretary have visited India since January, 1995.

Talks held during these visits were aimed at the overall strengthening and diversification of bilateral relations. They included talks on Indo-US defence cooperation, the strengthening of trade, commercial and economic relations as well as consultations on international and regional issues of mutual interest.

An Agreed Minute on Defence Relation was signed on January 12, 1995 during the visit of the US Defence Secretary. A Memorandum of Understanding for the formation of an Indo-US Commercial Alliance was signed on January 16, 1995 during the visit of US Commerce Secretary.

The Agreed Minute on Defence Relations provides a framework for Indo-US defence cooperation envisaging concurrent progress in the three areas of civilian to civilian cooperation, service to service cooperation and cooperation in defence research and production. The Commercial Alliance provides an institutionalised mechanism for private industry in the USA to work with their Indian counterparts to increase trade and investment between the two countries.

The President of Sri Lanka Mrs. Chandrika Bandaranaike Kumaratunga visited India from March 25—28, 1995. India offered assistance to Sri Lanka in infrastructure and transportation sectors, as also the dairy sector and in the setting up of a Small Scale Industries Centre in Sri Lanka.

Grants in Aid to ICWA

5454. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MALHOTRA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have sanctioned|propose to sanction any grants-in-